



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-1758)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Rita Hall

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (12-0897)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and noted the lack of a Quorum. Commissioner Bigby and Grills joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m. and 10:17 a.m., establishing a Quorum.

Chairperson Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the April 4, 2012 Minutes. (12-1071)

On motion of Commissioner Cheryl Grills, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
Department of Auditor-Controller
Department of Children and Family Services
Internal Services Department

Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Sheriff's Department (12-1072)

Robert Smythe, Auditor Controller announced that there will be a new Group Home Ombudsman, Michelle Day beginning on May 2, 2012. Mr. Smythe also answered questions posed by the Commission.

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that during the period from March 13, 2012 to, 2012, DCFS received reports in the following categories: 3 reports of physical abuse, 5 reports of general neglect, 3 reports of sexual abuse, 2 reports of emotional abuse and 659 Absent Without Leave (AWOL). Further Ms. Howard stated that there has been discussion of a possible merger between Penny Lane and Dubnoff Center. Further, Ms. Howard answered questions posed by the Commission.

Mr. Luis Enriquez, Building Superintendent, reported that 98% of the roof at Los Padrinos is complete. An estimate has been submitted for the Special Handling Unit (SHU). Mr. Enriquez also answered questions posed by the Commission.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, LCSW, Residential/TBS Support Unit, Department of Mental Health (DMH), attended the meeting on behalf of Paul McIver, LCSW, District Chief, Countywide Children's Case Management and Program Administration, Department of Mental Health (DMH). She updated the Commission on the status of the pending budget cuts and the upcoming Assembly of Budget Committee Hearing scheduled for May 2012. Ms. Fitzgerald also updated the Commission on the KDA lawsuit and shared the new memo from Marvin J. Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health regarding "DMH Sharing of Mental Health Information With DCFS For Purposes of Coordinating Care".

Michael Varela, Director, Camp Gonzalez, submitted five scholarship applications on behalf of the youth in the camp. He reported the new changes at Camp Challenger which has allowed them to reduce the number of minors in each camp to 40 instead of 80, making it easier to manage. Mr. Varela also reported they have been working closely with Internal Services Department (ISD) and half of their provisions have been met.

Ms. Pamela Pease, Acting Supervising Deputy Probation Officer of the Probation Department (PD), reported on AWOL incidents for the month

of March 2012 as follows: 161 AWOL involving 114 youth, 61 remain AWOL, 21 have been returned to Group Homes (GH), 22 are in Juvenile Hall (JH), one was ordered to camp, and 9 placed in other placement. Ms. Pease also reported 14 youth detained on outstanding Bench Warrant as follows: 7 remain detained in JH pending disposition, 2 received camp, 3 back to suitable placement, and 2 AWOL from placement. Additionally, Ms. Pease reported that there is an Administrative hold on Sonya Love GH and an investigative hold on Loving Life GH for two separate incidents. 6 investigations, 1 child abuse, which was unfounded, 4 still pending, 1 unfounded, 1 inconclusive, 5 monitoring inspections, in various states of approval, 81 cases of permanency, 63 male, 18 female, 4 adoption cases and 11 legal guardianship cases pending.

Commander Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department distributed handouts on the demographics of the jail population. Mr. Asmus also reported the upcoming layoffs of 300 court employees and 56 court room closures. These closures will increase courtroom traffic and impact the timeframe of completing civil cases. He further stated the completion of the Long Beach Courthouse is anticipated for August 13, 2012; there are plans to give Department 95 a new courthouse in Eastlake and the Correction Services and Custody Division has been merged into one division "Custody Division", under Chief Yen. Additionally, Mr. Asmus answered questions posed by the Commission.

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3. Chairperson's Report on Various items for April 18, 2012. (12-1093)

The following articles were shared with the Commissioners:

Daily Breeze:

Jails (April 11, 2012)

Baca Determined to Close Men's Jail (April 11, 2012)

Courts (April 18, 2012)

Witnesses Detail Jail Beatings (April 17, 2012)

Budget Cuts Set to Shutter 56 County Courtrooms (April 18, 2012)

Los Angeles Times:

Audit Results (April 9, 2012)

Baca for Partial Closure of Jail (April 11, 2012)
Sheriff Favors Closing Much of Aging Jail (April 11, 2012)
Missteps on Child Welfare (April 11, 2012)
Deputies Abuse at Jail Described (April 11, 2012)
Shooting Leaves Town Stunned April 14, 2012)
L.A. Courts to be Cut \$30 Million (April 18, 2012)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for April 18, 2012. (12-1616)

Ms. Bolaji Famuyiwa, Staff Commission Services reported that the scholarship application shows a deadline of April 15, 2012 and May 1, 2012 and the Commission advised Staff that the deadline is extended until May 1, 2012 deadline.

5. Treasurer's Report for April 18, 2012. (12-1101)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$582.46.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports for April 18, 2012. (12-1521)

There was no report given.

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from April 5, 2012 to April 17, 2012. (12-1523)

During the reporting period the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Cerritos Station visited on April 9, 2012 by Chairperson Montano**
- **Bay Front Youth Family Services visited on April 10, 2012 by Chairperson Montano**
- **Counseling & Research Associate/Masada Home visited on April 11, 2012 by Chairperson Montano**
- **Michael Antonovich Antelope Valley Branch visited on April 16, 2012 by Chairperson Montano**
- **Pico Rivera Station visited on April 17, 2012 by Chairperson Montano**
- **Rosemary Children's Services visited on April 5, 2012 by Commissioner Bigby**
- **Rosemary Children's Services visited on April 6, 2012 by Commissioner Bigby**
- **Rosemary Children's Services visited on April 10, 2012 by**

Commissioner Bigby

- Rosemary Children's Services visited on April 13, 2012 by Commissioner Bigby
- Penny Lane visited on April 17, 2012 by Commissioner Bigby
- Moore's Cottage visited on April 5, 2012 by Vice Chair Bacio
- West Covina FFA/DBA Homes of Hope Group Home visited on April 12, 2012 by Vice Chair Bacio
- Airport Court visited on April 6, 2012 by Commissioners Hall and Grills
- Dream Catcher Foundation visited on April 17, 2012 by Commissioners Hall and Grills

During the reporting period the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:

- Mozell Pennington Boys Center visited on April 5, 2012 by Commissioners Hall and Grills. Commissioners discussed many concerns with this facility and issued this facility a Corrective Action Response Form

During the reporting period the following Group Home was visited but not inspected:

- Rosemary Children's Services on April 11, 2012 by Commissioner Bigby

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. DISCUSSIONS

8. The Department of Children and Family Services role in providing permanent placement for DCFS/Probation youth. (12-1524)

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) shared that providing permanent placement for DCFS youth has been the top priority of DCFS for several years and they have been considering various options including: adoption, legal guardianship, and reunifying children with their biological families. DCFS is also continuing their efforts to build stronger relationships with Case Social Workers, in addition to the efforts to the unit called "Permanency Partners" which aids in locating families/associates that have been part of the children's lives. Emphasis is being put on the Needs and Services Plans and how they must have a permanency goal.

The Probation Department will report on this item at the next business meeting.

9. The Probation Department 's role/cooperation in providing recreational field trips for Probation youth and releasing them to their mentors. (12-1525)

This item will be continued on the May 16, 2012 Agenda.

10. The Impact of Group Homes/Facilities closures on DCFS/Probation youth. (12-1569)

This item will be continued on the May 16, 2012 Agenda.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

11. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-1572)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-1573)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of April 18, 2012. (12-1576)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.